

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5195

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: DEVELOPMENTS ON STAGE III TIMING

FOR EUR/RPM

1. MORNING AND EVENING SESSIONS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON JULY 3 RESULTED IN NO PROGRESS TOWARD OVERCOMING DEADLOCK ON STAGE III DATE. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS AND WARSAW PACT ALLIES ARE MAINTAINING PRESSURE FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE, THEY ARE NOT DEMANDING PORTACTED DEBATE OF THE TIMING QUESTION IN THE SESSIONS THEMSELVES. FOCUS OF EFFORTS IS SHIFTING STEADILY TO INFORMAL EFFORTS AT SOLVING KEY PROBLEMS, AGREEMENT ON WHICH COULD SPEED MOVEMENT TOWARDS CONSENSUS ON STAGE III DATE. NEXT MEETING OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR 1200, FRIDAY, JUL 4.

2. ALTHOUGH UNITY OF NATO AND EC-9 GROUPS HAS BEEN MAINTAINED, DIFFERENCES IN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR. THE GROUP MORE OR LESS OPENLY IN FAVOR OF MOVING RAPIDLY TO DECISION ON DATE IS GROWING,
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WHILE THOSE WHO DO NOT FAVOR A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH ARE

BECOMING INCREASINGLY VOCAL. THE HARDEST POSITION CONTINUES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION, BUT BOTH THE DUTCH AND BELGIAN AMBASSADORS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF THEIR AUTHORITIES APPROVING A JULY DATE FOR STAGE III UNLESS CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IS MADE SOON IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

3. SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES PROFESS TO BE INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED WITH WHAT THEY CHARACTERIZE AS BLOCKING TACTICS OF WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS. SOVIET REPS SAY THEY HAVE NO FLEXIBILITY ON CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE DATES FOR STAGE III BUT SOVIET DELEGATION CHIEF KOVAKEV SEEMS NOT TO FEEL THE NEED TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVES TO HELP BREAK THE DEADLOCK. ATTITUDE OF WARSAW PACT REPS IN GENERAL APPEARS TO BE THAT THE EAST HAS MET THE WEST MORE THAN HALF WAY IN BASKET III AND OTHER SUBJECT AREAS AND THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS TO SHOW GOOD WILL BY AGREEING ON A STAGE III DATE.

4. MEANWHILE, FINNISH DELEGATION HEAD ILONIEMI APPROACHED US PRIVATELY AFTERNOON OF JULY 3 TO SAY HE HAD JUST RECEIVED AN URGENT PHONE CALL FROM PRESIDENT KKKONEN, WHO IS GROWING INCREASINGLY NERVOUS ABOUT UNCERTAINTY OF SITUATION ON STAGE III TIMING, WHICH IS A HOT POLITICAL ISSUE IN FINLAND. ILONIEMI TOLD US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT KOKKONEN FEELS HIS POLITICAL FUTURE IS AT STAKE AND THAT HE WILL BE SUBJECT TO SEVERE CRITICISM IF STAGE III IS NOT HELD IN JULY, AS HE HAS PUBLICLY FORESEEN. ILONIEMI FEELS THAT FINNISH GOVERNMENT MAY BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT UNTIL EVENING OF SATURDAY, JULY 5, BUT THAT IF THERE IS NO CONFERENCE DECISION ON A STAGE III DATE BY THAT TIME, FINNS WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE POSITION THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO CONVENE STAGE III IN JULY.

5. THE QUESTION OF HOW MUCH TIME THE FINNS "REALLY" NEED TO PREPARE FOR STAGE III IS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVELY DISCUSSED SUBJECTS AT THE CONFERENCE. MANY WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELS BELIEVE THAT STAGE III COULD BE PUT CONFIDENTIAL

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TOGETHER IN THREE OR EVEN TWO WEEKS IF NECESSARY AND THAT FINNISH WARNINGS ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO DO THE JOB ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. ILONIEMI HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN MAKING HIS POSITION CLEAR, HOWEVER, AND THE CHANCE THAT HE WILL AT SOME POINT ANNOUNCE THAT A JULY DATE IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE IS NOT TO BE EXCLUDED. DALE

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